



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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U.S. –Sudan Relations

- Local newspapers gave prominent coverage to a *Washington Post* article about the U.S. Government's implementation of a "Plan B" with regard to its relations with Sudan. Under the plan, the U.S. Treasury would block U.S. commercial bank transactions connected to the Sudan government, including those involving oil revenues. The U.S. Government's aim is to discourage foreign governments and companies from conducting business with Sudan, according to the report. Under the plan, pressure would be exerted on Darfur rebel leaders who have refused to participate in peace talks with the Government of Sudan. Certain reports further reveal that Washington has already stationed four U.S. army colonels as observers on Sudan's border with Chad as a signal to Khartoum not to let the violence spread outside its territory. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- Representatives of Sudanese civil society groups announced that they will submit a petition to the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum denouncing the detention of nine Sudanese nationals at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo (Cuba). The head of the Umma Party, Al-Saddig Al- Mahdi, stated that the detention of these Sudanese nationals is a "scar on U.S. justice." (*Al-Sahafa, Khartoum Monitor, et al*)

Darfur

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed frustration yesterday over delays in the deployment of a UN hybrid force to Darfur. "I am still waiting for a positive and clear agreement from the Sudanese government to pave the way for deployment of the hybrid force," Ban stated. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- China and the U.S. engaged in "heated" discussions yesterday at the UN Security Council, where the U.S. accused China of arming the Government of Sudan and militias in Darfur. The Chinese government rejected these accusations and argued that imposing sanctions on Sudan would complicate the crisis further. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- The wali (governor) of South Darfur, Al-Haj Atta Al-Manan, has appointed four new ministers and advisers in his state as part of the new Darfur Transitional Authority (DTA). Certain members of the DTA are affiliated with rebel groups, such as the Justice and Equality Movement. (*Al-Sudani*)

Miscellaneous

- Britain's Ambassador to Sudan delayed in South Darfur after the train stopped, prompting him to stay in Adeela village for two days. (*Akhir Lahza*)

- President Al-Bashir arrived yesterday in Nouakchott on a two-day visit aimed at enhancing bilateral relations and encouraging investments between the two countries. (*Al-Sudani*)

Quote of the Day

"The influence of certain militant figures in the Government of Sudan is stronger than UN pressures." – Jan Pronk, former UN Representative to Sudan.

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.